

Editorial: To the LCA Community

Can You Imagine the LCA World Without our Journal?

Dear Readers,

Some of you perform LCAs without regularly reading this Journal.

Why?

Is *Int. J. LCA* too specialised or too broad, or is it too theoretical?

We would like *Int. J. LCA* to appeal to the *whole* LCA community, which means that we should perhaps increase our service to colleagues who apply LCA, without neglecting those who develop LCA.

Our main and ever-present goal is the *quality* of the contributions. Next is our strong concern to improve the *variety* of topics. According to the Editorial in the first issue of the first volume 1995 [1], short versions of actual LCAs, reviews, and papers dealing with the improvement of methodology are the first three items of the Journal. In practice, however, methodology occupied the first rank among the papers submitted and published; not *all* of them might have been of immediate concern to *all* of you. Since the process of standardization (ISO 14040-43) has now essentially been finished (see upcoming issue), methodology, perhaps, will become somewhat less emphasised, although much remains to be done in data quality, impact assessment and in combining LCA with other methods [2].

In the near future issues we plan the Journal to move in the following directions:

1. The *Int. J. LCA* will "go internet" in addition to the printed version.
2. More case studies and short versions of actual LCAs, including examples of ecodesign, are intended to be published.
3. Full LCA-studies will be available via the internet, by the online version of "LCA Documents".

4. A section **LCA Software Reviews** will be created, serving the reader with independent, detailed and critical reviews of existing LCA-software products.

Additional material (e.g. comprehensive reviews, and direct access to demo-versions, lists of modules, etc.) can be provided by the Internet-Edition of the Journal.

5. The Journal will increasingly be a forum for the national LCA-societies and working groups in Austria, Greece, Italy, Japan, Spain. (Where else? Please let us know!)

The Internet-Edition of the Journal allows publication in languages other than English. The first language for all contributions, of course, remains English.

Reduced prices can be offered to the members of such national societies.

We think that these measures can increase the attractiveness of the Journal for new readers, without diminishing its value for LCA researchers and developers. The discussion in the *Int. J. LCA* – printed and online – and at the **Global LCA Village** (internet only, free for all) will go on at a high level. Jointly with the **LCA Documents** (printed and online, for subscribers of the Journal at a reduced rate), we offer a unique spectrum of LCA-related information, indispensable for the whole LCA-community.

We are looking forward to your comments and suggestions for improvement

Walter Klöpffer and Almut Beate Heinrich
<http://www.ecomed.de/journals>

[1] KLÖPFFER, W.: Editorial in No. 1, *Int. J. LCA* 1 (1995) 3

[2] KLÖPFFER, W.: Is LCA Unique? Editorial in No 5, *Int. J. LCA* 3 (1998) 241-242

Announcement of a Special Issue: LCA in Japan

Issue Editors:

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Overall Topics:

Representative coverage of both methodology (inventory assessment, impact assessment, etc.) and application (case studies) of LCA in Japan from a broad spectrum of authors (industry, research institutes, academia); activities of JLCA (Japan Life Cycle Assessment Society) and JEMAI (Japan Environmental Management Association for Industry), including the current state of the national LCA database project

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